

The Zimbabwean opposition leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, is to be made the country's Prime Minister today. His Movement for Democratic Change is to share power with Robert Mugabe's ZANU PF party. Our Southern Africa correspondent, Peter Biles, reports:

Morgan Tsvangirai will be **sworn in as Prime Minister** at State House in Harare. Later in the day, he'll address a rally attended by his supporters.

The **inclusive government** is far from perfect, but Mr Tsvangirai has **taken the plunge**, and agreed to share power with his **arch rival**, Robert Mugabe. The remainder of the **cabinet** will be sworn in on Friday.

There's **deep scepticism** about this process. At best, it'll be a **transitional arrangement**, leading eventually to a new **constitution** and fresh elections. Even as the final preparations for the unity government are being made, the MDC is still demanding the immediate release of all **political detainees**.

The tasks facing the politicians are **daunting** - an economy that has collapsed, more than half the country's population short of food, and a cholera outbreak that's affected nearly 70 thousand people.

Peter Biles, BBC News, South Africa

Vocabulary and definitions

sworn in as Prime Minister	officially made Prime Minister
inclusive government	a government which includes members from different political parties
taken the plunge	decided to accept a difficult situation
arch rival	an especially bad enemy
cabinet	a small group of the most important people elected to government
deep scepticism	a lot of doubt and negative feeling
transitional arrangement	a temporary situation
constitution	the set of political principles by which a state is governed
political detainees	people who are in a prison for political reasons
daunting	extremely difficult

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/7882762.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2009/02/090211_witn_zimbabwe.shtml